

# National Organic Standards Board

David E. Carter,  
Chair  
Colorado

Mark King  
Vice Chair  
Indiana

Jim Riddle  
Secretary  
Minnesota

Kim M. Burton  
Materials Chair  
California

Owusu Bandele  
Crops Chair  
Louisiana

George L. Siemon  
Livestock Chair  
Wisconsin

Andrea Caroe  
California

Ann Cooper  
New York

Goldie Caughlan  
Washington

Rebecca J. Goldberg  
New York

Dennis Holbrook  
Texas

Nancy Ostiguy  
Pennsylvania

Rosalie L. Koenig  
Florida

Michael Lacy  
Georgia

Kevin O'Rell  
Colorado

June 2, 2003

Richard Mathews  
Program  
Manager

National Organic Program  
USDA-AMS-TMP-NOP  
1400 Independence Ave., SW  
Room 4008 So., Ag Strop 0268  
Washington, D.C. 20250

RE: Docket TM-03-02  
Sent Via E-Mail to [National.List@usda.gov](mailto:National.List@usda.gov)  
Sent via FAX to 202.205.7808

Dear Richard:

On behalf of the National Organic Standards Board, I am requesting that the public comment period for Docket TM-03-02 be extended to June 22, 2003.

The 10-day period provided for comments on this proposed rule seem extremely compressed, particularly in light of the fact that a portion of that 10-day period involved the Memorial Day weekend holiday. Although the board is working to submit formal comments in compliance with the deadline, some of our members have been away from their phones and e-mail because of the holiday week. Consequently, our ability to offer our best comments is compromised.

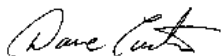
During the public comment period at the most recent National Organic Standards Board meeting, we received input from several individuals requesting a minimum of a 30-day comment period for any proposed amendment to the National List. We believe the concerns expressed during the public comment period should be addressed by extending this current comment period.

We recognize that the NOP feels that the public has already had a comment period on these materials. However, the decisions of the National Organic Standards Board have not received comment. The industry has not had adequate time to comment on the annotations attached to the listings by the board, nor has the industry had an opportunity to evaluate the transcripts of the NOSB decision.

Richard, we share your desire to make the amendments to the National List as quickly as possible. However, we also believe that reducing the time allowed for public comments is not the proper area to attempt to compress the time-frame.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Dave Carter,  
Chair